

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

Please amend the claims (~~strikethrough~~ indicating deletion and underline indicating insertion) as follows:

1. (currently amended) A lancing device for collecting a sample of body fluid from a sampling site on the skin of a subject, said lancing device comprising an outer body housing and a lancet, the lancet being movable between a first position within the outer body housing and a second position wherein at least a sharp tip portion of the lancet extends through an opening in the outer body housing, the lancing device further comprising a contact face surrounding the opening and at least one a plurality of ribs projecting from the contact face in a ring-shaped pattern, each of said plurality of ribs having a first end adjacent the opening and extending lengthwise away from the opening and across the contact face.
2. (currently amended) The lancing device of Claim 1, comprising a plurality of ribs projecting from the contact face in a regularly spaced array.
3. (original) The lancing device of Claim 2, wherein the ribs are spaced about the opening in a circular array.
4. (original) The lancing device of Claim 2, wherein the ribs are spaced about the opening in a radial array.
5. (original) The lancing device of Claim 2, wherein the ribs are spaced about the opening in a helical spiral array.
6. (original) The lancing device of Claim 2, wherein the ribs are spaced about the opening in an annular circumferential array.
7. (original) The lancing device of Claim 1, wherein the contact face is concave.
8. (original) The lancing device of Claim 1, wherein the contact face is convex.

9. (currently amended) A lancing device for collecting a sample of body fluid from a sampling site on the skin of a subject, said lancing device comprising an outer body housing and a lancet, the lancet being movable between a first position within the outer body housing and a second position wherein at least a sharp tip portion of the lancet extends through an opening in the outer body housing, the lancing device further comprising a contact face surrounding the opening and at least one a plurality of recessed hemispherical dimples on the contact face.
10. (currently amended) An endcap for a lancing device, said endcap comprising a first end for connection to the lancing device, and a second end defining an opening through which a sharp tip of a lancet can pass, the second end further comprising a contact face surrounding the opening and at least one a plurality of ribs projecting from the contact face in a ring-shaped pattern, each of said plurality of ribs having a first end adjacent the opening and extending lengthwise away from the opening and across the contact face.
11. (currently amended) The endcap of Claim 10, comprising a plurality of ribs projecting from the contact face in a regularly spaced array.
12. (original) The endcap of Claim 11, wherein the ribs are spaced about the opening in a circular array.
13. (original) The endcap of Claim 11, wherein the ribs are spaced about the opening in a radial array.
14. (original) The endcap of Claim 11, wherein the ribs are spaced about the opening in a helical spiral array.
15. (original) The endcap of Claim 11, wherein the ribs are spaced about the opening in an annular circumferential array.
16. (original) The endcap of Claim 10, wherein the contact face is concave.
17. (original) The endcap of Claim 10, wherein the contact face is convex.

18. (currently amended) An endcap for a lancing device, said endcap comprising a first end for connection to the lancing device, and a second end defining an opening through which a sharp tip of a lancet can pass, the second end further comprising a contact face surrounding the opening and ~~at least one a plurality of recessed hemispherical dimples~~ on the contact face.

19. (currently amended) A method collecting a sample of body fluid using a lancing device, said method comprising:

lancing the skin of a subject at a lancing site; and

compressing a ribbed contact face ~~of the lancing device~~ against the skin adjacent the lancing site, said ribbed contact face comprising a plurality of ribs extending lengthwise from an outer edge of the contact face inwardly toward an expression zone.

20. (original) The method of Claim 19, further comprising twisting the ribbed contact face in contact with the skin.